



Los Angeles County Regional Park And Open Space District

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October 07, 2014

The Honorable Board of Directors
County of Los Angeles
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE SPECIFIED EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO
THE THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT TO THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
FOR GRANTS TO THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND FOR
THE MALIBU CREEK AND RAMIREZ CANYON ACQUISITION PROJECTS
(THIRD DISTRICT)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate a total not-to-exceed amount of \$960,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District, to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for grants to the Trust for Public Land for the proposed Malibu Creek and Ramirez Canyon Acquisition Projects.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find the proposed Malibu Creek and Ramirez Canyon Acquisition Projects categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the projects.
2. Allocate a total not-to-exceed amount of \$960,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for grants to the Trust for Public Land, \$260,000 for the proposed Malibu Creek Acquisition Project and \$700,000 for the Ramirez Canyon Acquisition Project.
3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of

the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award grants not to exceed \$960,000 after the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy assigns its right to apply to the Trust for Public Land and when applicable conditions have been met, and to administer the grants as of the date of this action and pursuant to the procedures in the Procedural Guide for the Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise, funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate an amount not to exceed \$960,000 in Specified Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition) to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) for grants to the Trust for Public Land (TPL) for the proposed Malibu Creek and Ramirez Canyon Acquisition Projects (Projects):

Malibu Creek Acquisition Project - \$260,000

The proposed Malibu Creek Acquisition Project consists of the acquisition of approximately 47 acres land for wildlife habitat located in the Santa Monica Mountains. The estimated total project cost is \$610,000. The recommended \$260,000 of Specified Excess Funds will be supplemented with \$350,000 in California Natural Resources Funds.

Ramirez Canyon Acquisition Project - \$700,000

The proposed Ramirez Canyon Acquisition Project consists of the acquisition of approximately 47 acres of land for riparian and wildlife habitat located in the Santa Monica Mountains. The estimated total project cost is \$1,350,000. The recommended \$700,000 of Specified Excess Funds will be supplemented with \$500,000 of California Natural Resources Funds and \$150,000 of California State Coastal Conservancy Funds.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director), in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, be authorized to award grants after SMMC assigns its right to apply for the funds to TPL and when applicable conditions have been met. Applicable conditions include grantee qualifications, consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and grantee agreements to follow California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the projects, if applicable. It is further recommended that the Director be authorized to administer the grants pursuant to the Procedural Guide previously approved by the Board.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed recommendations further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1) by acquiring additional wildlife habitat land in the Third Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the grant in the amount of \$960,000 is budgeted in the Third Supervisorial District's portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's (RPOSD) Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 have encumbered all such funds before receiving grants of Excess Funds. SMMC and TPL each meet this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended acquisitions will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District for specified projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director will be authorized to award grants to the various grantees when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

On June 2, 2009, the Board approved the Procedural Guide for governing the administration of RPOSD grants. The Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grants as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All public agency projects funded by RPOSD are required to comply with CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the projects. The SMMC is the lead agency for the proposed Projects.

The proposed Projects are categorically exempt from CEQA according to Section 15313 of the State CEQA Guidelines, and Class 13 of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the proposed Projects consist of acquisition of lands for wildlife conservation purposes.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement (Agreement) will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009 only if all applicable conditions of the grants have been met. The Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The proposed Projects will enhance the environment through the preservation of open space and wildlife habitat in the Third Supervisorial District. It will have no impact on any other RPOSD-funded project.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Facilities and Asset Management Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

10/7/2014

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", with a stylized, flowing script.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JB:WO:mh

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors